HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 16 No. 07 - July, 2008

President's Letter
by Howard, AB9FH

Another Field Day has come and gone, and the club owes a thank-you to co-chairmen Pancho, KA9OFA, and Jim, WB9LNU. Thanks to the industry of our new VP, Brian, KC9HEK, and treasurer Mark, AB9CD, we were able to arrange to get some bonus points added to our score. Mark taught us how to fill out the standard NTS message form, and Joe, N9UX, was our willing recipient as students originated their messages. QSOs were up 61% from last year. The weather cooperated for the most part. Charles, KC9IIV, provided our food again. I hope all those who attended enjoyed themselves. I know that my son, Charlie, had a great time, and made quite a few contacts. I have promised him a camping trip this summer; I don't know if he will let me count this weekend. In any event, I think we can get him working on his Tech license soon. Ready for next year?

I received an email looking for contact information for a member from the 1940s, Cyril Shallow, W9SQK. The family of an SK is looking to return his QSL cards to the originator. How did they find us? It was our history book on the website. I don't know what chance we have of helping them find the family after all these years. If nothing else, they have offered the club the card for our archives. This kind of thing reminds me again that we represent real history at our club; it reminds me too that I need to get going on collecting more of that history so it will be available to those who come after.

The program for this month looks to be an interesting one. I've never been to the repeater site personally and I think that is true for most of us. Dave, KA9XWN, will be talking about some of the details of the repeater site and the other things that go on there. Every time I hear the repeater, I can't help but think about those who have gone the extra mile to get our antennas where they are: 600+ feet up where they can provide the excellent coverage we enjoy, which makes the repeater useful not just to our members but others who "borrow" it for special events.

I hope I will see you for the club meeting July 31st!

73 de

AB9FH

MRAC Officers

President
Howard Parks — AB9FH

Vice President
Brian Bieger — KC9HEK

Secretary
Sarah Parks — KB9ZNC

Treasurer
Mark Tellier — AB9CD

Board of Directors

Vacant ('07-'09)

Dave DeFebo — WB9BWP ('08-'10)

Al Maahs — KC9IJJ ('07-'09)

Ted Stiller — WA9RDI ('08-'10)

Brian White — K9LCQ ('07-'09)

HamateurChatter Editor
Vacant

HamateurChatter Emailings
Joe Schwarz — N9UX

Regular Mailings
Dick Wood — W9JBE

Club/VEC Phone no. is
(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6 7 2 2

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www.w9rh.org

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Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
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Nets Heard in the Milwaukee Area

DAY	TIME		MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6:00-8:00	AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)
Daily	5:15-6:00	AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net
Daily	7:30	AM	144.1550	Breakfast Round Table (SSB)
Daily	9:30	PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.	8:00	PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00	PM	146.4450	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45	PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00	PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	9:00	PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00	AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00	PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Wed.	8:00	PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00	PM	145.130-	ARRL voice news

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130-	MAARS Swapnet
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap Net
Thu.	**8:00 PM**	**50.160**	**MRAC 6 m. SSB Net**
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	**8:00 PM**	**28.490**	**MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)**
Fri.	**9:00 PM**	**145.390-**	**W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net**
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP NZ9I KA9OFA
AB9FH KB9ZNC

Our thanks also goes to:
Rita Doneis, Tom Fuszard, Al Maahs, and Hal Newton, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Thanks to Brian White, who administers our Web Site.

Tom Czaja, Tom Fuszard, and Larry Noldan, who manage our VEC. Thanks to Tom Czaja for creating a new set of Extra Class exams.

Thank YOU!

BOD Mtg. Notes

MRAC Board Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2008

Present: Howard, AB9FH; Brian, KC9HEK; Mark, AB9CD; Sarah, KB9ZNC; Al, KCI9JJ; Pancho, KA9OFA; Ted, WA9RDI; Dave, WB9BWP

Absent: Brian, K9LCQ

• Howard and Pancho gave a report on the Kids Day event at Pioneer Village: Saturday was well attended. OCHS will be repeating the free admission weekend next year as well. Howard will inform them soon if we'll be there too.

• Field Day: Larry, NZ9I, and Pancho had prepared a proposed station and antenna layout. There was a great deal of discussion about this. Brian, KC9HEK, prepared a handout on the bonus point categories. We'll be trying for some new ones in addition to the tried and true.

General Membership Meeting 6/26/08

By Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. by president Howard, AB9FH.

Sarah, KB9ZNC, read the minutes which were approved following a motion by Joe, N9UX, seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA.

Mark, AB9CD, read the treasurer's report. He noted that there would be a shift in the time period for his reports. The report was approved following a motion by Joe, which was seconded by Brian, KC9HEK.

Old Business:

Field Day: Howard invited all members to come out to participate both in the club picnic and to operate. Help with setup and take down would be especially appreciated.

Howard stated that discussion related to the relationship between the club and the VEC would be forthcoming but the board needed to review what had been done so far again in light of the effects now seen.

VEC: Larry, NZ9I, gave a brief VEC report, reminding members of testing opportunities remaining this summer and into the fall. The new Extra class question pool goes into effect July 1st.

New Business:

Brian, K9LCQ, was appointed to fill the board vacancy left when Brian, KC9HEK, became Vice President.

Al, KC9IJJ, is working on a lapel mike for meetings, something that a member had asked the board to look into.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. on a motion by Brian, seconded by Dick, W9JBE.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC, secretary

July 31 MRAC Program

Thursday July 31 is the next meeting of MRAC.

The program will be presented by Dave Schank, KA9WXN, who will speak on a trio of topics depending on time and audience participation.

First is the subject of "Digital TV", followed by a virtual tour of the Channel 10/36 transmitter site and finally the Community Repeater Site (**home of the MRAC (145.39) repeater** among others).

Dave is an engineer at channel 10/36 as well as one of MRAC's repeater technical crew (including being one of the few with a key to the site).

Dave is also President of MAARS (the 5.13 repeater).

This will be a very interesting program - one which you should not miss.

Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio is the means of communication with others on equal terms, of finding friendship, adventure and prestige while seated at one's own fireside. In picking his human contacts out of the air the amateur is not seen by them. He is not known by the clothes he wears but by the signals he emits. He enters a new world whose qualifications for success are within his reach. There are no century-old class prejudices to impede his progress. He enters a thoroughly democratic world where he rises or falls by his own efforts. When he is W9XYZ, a beginner, the radio elders help him willingly, and when he becomes W9XYZ, the record-breaker and efficient traffic-handler, he willingly helps the younger generation. Without a pedigree, a chauffeur, or an old master decorating his living room he can become a prince — of the air. At the close of the day, filled with the monotony of our routine of the machine age, he can find adventure, vicarious travel, prestige and friendship by throwing on the switch and pounding his signals into the air.

Dr. Raymond V. Bowers,
Yale University

Field Day Success

By Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA

Well, I think that it's safe to say that Field Day this year was a success. We seemed to have fun AND had significantly more total contacts than last year in spite of having to close down operations and disconnect all equipment while a storm passed through. The storm also tended to keep visitors from the Field Day site.

We had 785 contacts this year by 15 operators as compared with last year's 478 contacts by 13 operators, an improvement of 61 percent. Then there are the bonus points, for example copying F.D. message from W1AW, having educational activity, having an information booth. The bonus points have to be verified by ARRL. For a final score check upcoming issues of QST (probably the November issue).

The operator that made the most contacts during F.D. was Howard, AB9FH, with a total of 152 contacts on phone. The operator that garnered the highest calculated points score was Tony, AB9PN, on CW with 504 points.

We did work on minimizing our interference problem from last year by using a different antenna layout and although we didn't eliminate the interference altogether, I think that we did improve things quite a bit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Field Day committee: Jim Tromblay, WB9LNU, cochairman; Larry, NZ9I and Brian Bieger, KC9HEK, for all their work on behalf of the club toward the success of our Field Day effort and to all who helped either with preparations, set up, operating radios, and tear down.

I'd also like to thank Charles, KC9IIV, who stepped in to prepare the food for F.D. when previous plans didn't work out.

Here is a comparison between last year's and this year's contacts followed by a breakdown by band of this year's contacts.

		CW	Digital	Phone
2007 - Total QSOs:	487	115	96	267
2008 - Total QSOs:	**785**	**162**	**123**	**500**

2008 Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

Band	CW QSOs	Digital QSOs	Phone QSOs
80m	--	30	53
40m	17	31	148
20m	104	42	294
15m	36	14	4
10m	5	6	----
2m	----	--	1
Totals	162	123	504

GOTA station 4 contacts

CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day,
CQ Field Day
de Whiskey Nine Romeo Hotel

Cheryl, KA9WOC, gets a little coaching from hubby, Jerry, KA9AJF, prior to operating at Field Day.

Jim, WB9LNU, working with son, Bill, N9UNS at the mic.

EVENTS

Peotone KarsFest *MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. -July 31, 2008
www.w9rh.org

Racine Megacycle FreeFest 2008
Sat.-Aug. 16, 2008
Fireman's Park
Sturtevant, WI
T/I in 147.27 + (no PL)

Circus City SwapFest *
Sat.-Aug. 9, 2008
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
147.315 (+)PL 123.0 Hz
n9udo@yellowthunder.org

East Central Illinois Ham Fest *
Sun. Aug. 24
Vermillion Co. Fairgrounds
Danville, IL
T/I on 146.820 - PL 88.5 Hz
www.vcara-hamfest.info

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. -Aug. 28, 2008
www.w9rh.org

Radio EXPO 2008 *
Chicago FM Club
Sep. 13 & 14, 2008
Boone Co. Fairgrounds
Belvidere, IL
T/I on 146.76- (107.2 Hz PL),
147.255+ (114.8Hz PL)
444.725+ (118.8 Hz PL)
http://www.chicagofmclub.org

50th Annual Peoria SuperFest *
Sat. & Sun. - Sep. 20 & 21, 2008
Exposition Gardens
Peoria, IL
T/I on 147.075+ (103.5 tone)
www.peoriasuperfest.com

DX Convention
Sep. 20, 2008
Holiday Inn
Elk Grove, IL
www.29dxcc.com

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. -Sep. 25, 2008
www.w9rh.org

* indicates VE testing is available.

Field Day Activities

Larry, NZ9I, doing PSK31 with Brian, KC9HEK, supervising.

Chow Time at Field Day!

Reminders

Please check into our nets on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Our **Six Meter SSB net** is Thursday @ 8:00 p.m. at **50.160** MHz USB

Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00 p.m. at **28.490** MHz ± 5 KHz USB.

Our **Two Meter FM** net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390** MHz, minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz.

Join us for Saturday Morning Breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.

We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

CQ Third Tuesday

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:
Old Country Buffet
16750 West Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

Exam Schedule

by Tom Fuszard, KF9PU

MRAC VEC
Exam Schedule
For upcoming Test Sessions:

July 26 **9:30 a.m. @ AES**

No testing in August.

Sep. 27 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Nov. 1 9:00 a.m. @ Elks Club (MRC SwapFest)

Nov. 29 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

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HAMATEURCHATTER

The **next meeting** of **MRAC**
will be **Thursday, July 31, 2008**
at 7:00 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390– MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)

July 31 MRAC program will feature Dave Schank, KA9WXN, who will talk about "Digital TV, What's it all about?" He will also give us a virtual tour of our repeater site.

Visit our website at: **www.w9rh.org**
Our phone (414) 332-MRAC
332-6722

M.R.A.C.
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First Class